

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair	Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti	Ms. Angela Volpicelli

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Christine Tague, Patti Cofield

Absent: Mrs. Marilyn King, Amy Larsen (High School Liaison)

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; or (a)(8) Student Discipline. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 5:00 PM and resumed at 5:30 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender reported that he attended last night's Town Council meeting. There were two agenda items that were requested by Councilman Hamilton, and the Town Council voted to approve both. One was to send a letter to the School Committee requesting that any audited fund balance for 2008-09 fiscal year be returned to the Town to go back into the general fund. That motion was approved 6-1. Councilwoman Gleason was opposed. The second motion was to form a committee that would look at sharing cooperative services. This committee would be made up of three members of Town Council, three members of the School Committee, Dr. Lusi, and Mr. Driscoll. There was discussion on pulling people in as necessary when their opinion is needed. Mr. Carpender announced that graduation was held last Friday night and was in the new gym for the first time. It went off very well. Mr. Carpender also announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting for collective bargaining and litigation purposes. No motions were made, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and she invited everyone to stay for the public hearing on the budget. She announced that last week's graduation went very well, and there were over 200 graduates. Mr. Blaess, our retiring High School Assistant Principal, was the speaker.

Dr. Lusi announced that the May 26th minutes were being withdrawn from the agenda.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain stated that we're getting ready for the years' end, and we're looking at student data and placement for next year.

- b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague will report on the financials on the Business Agenda.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meetings held May 4, 2009, May 19, 2009, and May 20, 2009. So voted. Mrs. Perrotti abstained from voting on the May 4th minutes because she was not a member at that time. Mr. Buddemeyer abstained from voting on the May 19th and 20th minutes due to his absence. The May 26th minutes will be presented on the next agenda.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Carpender announced that he was moving Teacher #5 from Item d) to the top of the Business Agenda.

- a) **General School Aide Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Alice Newcomb, General School Aide at Elmhurst School, effective June 19, 2009."
- b) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Janet Barton, Reading Specialist at Hathaway School, effective the last day of the 2008-09 school year." (Backup Enclosed)
- c) **Appt. – Senior Project Coordinator.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-6/23/09, to the position of Senior Project Coordinator at Portsmouth High School for the 2009-10 school year."
- d) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals/Displacements/Termination.**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. So voted 6-0.

Dr. Lusi announced the appointment of David Innis to the promotional position of Senior Project Coordinator, 4 time.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- d) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals/Displacements/Termination (Teacher #5):** Mr. Carpender stated that he was not going to hear public comment, as the public had the

opportunity to comment at last week's hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to rescind the non-renewal of Teacher #5. Seconded by Mr. Buddemeyer. Mr. Carpender stated that when the hearing was held, the decision was not made lightly. It was made on the information the Committee had at that time. Since the hearing, Ms. Cunningham's certification status has changed. So voted 6-0. Ms. Cunningham told the Committee she is grateful and thankful she is able to do her job and that she will never ever let them down.

Regular Business Agenda:

- a) **Discussion/Approval – May Financials.** Ms. Tague stated that the information from the May report remains unchanged, with the exception of the items below. In the area of revenue, Ms. Tague reported that Medicaid receipts have obtained the budget target of \$348,000 for the current fiscal year. The balance available for further transfer is \$245,891 as of May 2009. This balance will assist to offset all other revenue shortfalls as previously outlined to the Committee. As a result, Ms. Tague will be transferring an amount on June 30th, to realize the full projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2009, if necessary. In July, she will report out on the Medicaid balance as we begin the new fiscal year. Regarding Certified Retirement, Ms. Tague reported that we are currently having discussions with our outside audit firm concerning the accounting treatment for the deferred payment to the retirement plan. They are in discussions with RIDE and the Auditor General's Office for direction so that all districts are consistently reporting for financial statement purposes. Since the State will not be performing a reconciliation of the estimates until July, it will be impossible to know the impact, if any, on the budget by June 30th. This could result in a budget deficit once the reconciliation takes place. Currently we are analyzing the June financial information on a daily basis. Ms. Tague advised the Committee that there are still circumstances beyond our control that will impact bringing the budget into balance. She stated that the Administration and School Committee has exercised due diligence in implementing a spending freeze to ensure that adequate funds exist for the budgetary unknowns. She will have a preliminary accounting for the year in July; however, the final financial unaudited results will not be available until the end of August. A motion to approve the May financials and to give the Finance Director the authority to transfer the Medicaid funds if necessary was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0.
- b) **Update on FY 2009-10 Budget.** Dr. Lusi stated that the House Finance Committee put a budget forward, and Ms. Tague has been analyzing it. Initially, it looked like good news; however, upon further examination, it is not that good. She explained that when the House Finance Committee put their numbers out, it looked like the end result was additional aid; but they combined the stimulus IDEA money into the state aid money, which can't be used for anything other than Special Education purposes. We cannot use it to

supplant other parts of our budget. If that budget holds, we may be ending up with roughly a little over \$50,000 less in state aid than had been projected. Dr. Lusi stated that the House should be acting on the budget this Wednesday. It then has to go to the Senate, and they should be acting on it on Thursday. She hopes we know our numbers this week but cannot guarantee it. She suggested that the Committee considers scheduling a brief special meeting for teacher recall purposes, once we know our numbers, to save on unemployment costs. The Committee agreed to continue this meeting to next Tuesday for teacher recall purposes, pending legal review.

- c) **Establish Tuition Rate for the 2009-10 School Year.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge that the Committee establishes tuition in accordance with Policy #5116 for the 2009-10 school year at the rate of \$12,346 for a general education student. Tuition for students with any additional needs beyond the general education program will be individually calculated in accordance with the policy. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0.
- d) **Update on Prudence Island School.** Dr. Lusi explained that she is in the process of scheduling a meeting or conference call with RIDE to discuss the possibility of having the families of elementary-aged Prudence Island students register for home schooling instead of sending them to Bristol-Warren, and the monies that would've been paid to educate the students in Bristol-Warren would be donated to the Prudence Island School Foundation, who would assist with educating the children. The School Department would then lease the building to the Foundation for \$1. She stated that there are many issues and details that will need to be worked through, and that is why she will be seeking a Commissioner's Advisory regarding whether or not this payment to the Foundation is an appropriate use of educational funds. If the Commissioner decides that it is not appropriate, then the School Department may have to look at transferring the funds to the Town to have them donated to the Foundation as civic support. Mrs. Rossi, Mr. Bearse, and Mr. Marshall asked if the Committee supported the plan, and Mr. Carpender stated that if Dr. Lusi gets the approval to move forward with it, the Committee will help to make it happen.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer reported that the next meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:30 PM at the high school library. This meeting was postponed from last week.
- b) **Finance.** Mr. Carpender reported that the Public Hearing on the Budget was being held tonight at 7:00 PM in the Little Theatre.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** No report.

d) **Policy.** No report.

Mr. Carpende announced that this meeting will be continued to next Tuesday, June 30, 2009, pending legal review.

The meeting recessed at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marge Levesque, Clerk